Introduced by Senator Vincent

February 22, 2005

An act to add Sections 30505, 30507, 30509, 31751.4, 31751.8, and 31751.9 to, and to repeal and add Sections 30503 and 31751.3 of, the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to animals.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 934, as introduced, Vincent. Dogs and cats: spay or neuter agreement: penalties for violation.

Existing law generally provides that, in a county with a population exceeding 100,000, no public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group shall sell or give away to a new owner any dog or cat that has not been spayed or neutered. In counties with a population of less than 100,000, a dog or cat that has not been spayed or neutered may be sold or given away by any of those entities, if the purchaser or adopter makes a deposit and enters into an agreement to spay or neuter the animal, as specified. Under certain conditions, such a purchaser or adopter who violates an agreement to spay or neuter an animal is subject to specified civil fines and penalties.

This bill would make those spay and neuter provisions that are applicable to smaller counties uniformally applicable regardless of the population of the county involved. Because the bill would increase the duties of local humane officers, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program upon local governments.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

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This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 30503 of the Food and Agricultural 2 Code is repealed.

30503. (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (b), no public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group shall sell or give away to a new owner any dog that has not been spayed or neutered.

- (2) For the purposes of this section a "rescue group" is a for-profit or not-for-profit entity, or a collaboration of individuals with at least one of its purposes being the sale or placement of dogs that have been removed from a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, or humane shelter or that have been previously owned by any person other than the original breeder of that dog.
- (b) (1) If a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state certifies that a dog is too sick or injured to be spayed or neutered, or that it would otherwise be detrimental to the health of the dog to be spayed or neutered, the adopter or purchaser shall pay the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group a deposit of not less than forty dollars (\$40), and not more than seventy-five dollars (\$75).
- (2) The entity shall establish the amount of the deposit at the level it determines is necessary to encourage the spaying or neutering of dogs.
- (3) The deposit shall be temporary, and shall only be retained until the dog is healthy enough to be spayed or neutered, as eertified by a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state.
- 30 (4) The dog shall be spayed or neutered within 14 business days of that certification.

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(5) The adopter or purchaser shall obtain written proof of spaying or neutering from the veterinarian performing the operation.

- (6) If the adopter or purchaser presents proof of spaying or neutering to the entity from which the dog was obtained within 30 business days of obtaining the proof, the adopter or purchaser shall receive a full refund of the deposit.
- (e) Public animal control agencies or shelters, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelters, humane society shelters, and rescue groups may enter into cooperative agreements with each other and with veterinarians in lieu of requiring spaying and neutering deposits to earry out this section.
- (d) Any funds from unclaimed deposits made pursuant to this section, as it read on January 1, 1999, and any funds from deposits that are unclaimed after January 1, 2000, may be expended only for programs to spay or neuter dogs and eats, including agreements with a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals or a humane society or licensed veterinarian to operate a program to spay or neuter dogs and eats.
- (c) This section only applies to a county that has a population exceeding 100,000 persons as of January 1, 2000, and to cities within that county.
- SEC. 2. Section 30503 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:
- 30503. (a) This section only applies to a county whose population exceeds 100,000 persons as of January 1, 2000, and to the cities in that county.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group shall sell or give away any dog that has not been spayed or neutered.
- (c) A public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group may not transfer to a new owner a dog that has not been spayed or neutered, except as provided in subdivision (d).
- (d) A public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group may transfer to a new owner a dog that has not

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been spayed or neutered only if the animal shelter does both of the following:

- (1) Requires a written agreement, executed by the recipient, acknowledging the dog is not spayed or neutered and the recipient agrees in writing to be responsible for ensuring the dog will be spayed or neutered within 30 business days after the agreement is signed.
- (2) Receives from the recipient a sterilization deposit of not less than forty dollars (\$40) and not more than seventy-five dollars (\$75), the terms of which are part of the written agreement executed by the recipient under this section.
- (e) Public animal control agencies or shelters, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelters, humane society shelters, and rescue groups may enter into cooperative agreements with each other and with veterinarians in lieu of requiring spaying and neutering deposits to carry out this section.
- SEC. 3. Section 30505 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:
- 30505. (a) A spaying or neutering deposit described in Section 30503 may be either of the following:
- (1) A portion of the adoption fee or other fees rendered in acquiring the dog, which will enable the adopter to take the dog for spaying or neutering to a veterinarian with whom the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group has an agreement that provides that the veterinarian will bill the shelter directly for the sterilization.
 - (2) A deposit that is both of the following:
- (A) Refundable to the recipient if proof of spaying or neutering of the dog is presented to the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group not more than 30 business days after the date the dog is spayed or neutered.
- (B) Forfeited to the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group if proof of spaying or neutering is not presented to the animal shelter within 30 business days.
- 38 (b) A spaying or neutering deposit shall be in the amount 39 determined by the shelter, but shall not be less than forty dollars 40 (\$40) and shall not exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75).

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(c) All spaying or neutering deposits forfeited or unclaimed under this section shall be retained by the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group and shall be used by the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group only for the following purposes:

(1) A program to spay or neuter dogs and cats.

- (2) A public education program to reduce and prevent overpopulation of dogs and cats, and the related costs to local government.
- (3) A followup program to ensure that dogs and cats transferred by the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group are spayed or neutered in accordance with the agreement executed under subdivision (d) of Section 30503.
- (4) Any additional costs incurred by the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group in the administration of the requirements of this chapter.
- SEC. 4. Section 30507 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:
- 30507. (a) (1) If a recipient fails to comply with the spaying or neutering agreement executed under subdivision (d) of Section 30503, within 30 business days after the agreement is signed, the recipient shall forfeit the sterilization deposit and is subject to a fine pursuant to Section 30509.
- (2) An animal control officer, humane officer, police officer, peace officer, or any agency authorized to enforce the Penal Code may write citations with a civil penalty stated in an amount corresponding to the violation as provided in Section 30509. The fines shall be paid to the local municipality or public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane shelter, or rescue group. Any funds collected under this section shall be expended for the purpose of humane education, programs for low-cost spaying and neutering of dogs and cats, and any additional costs incurred by the animal shelter in the administration of the requirements of this chapter.

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(3) If the owner, at any time subsequent to 30 business days after the spaying or neutering agreement was signed, provides proof of spaying or neutering, the deposit shall be forfeited, but any fine levied but not yet paid, shall be waived.

- (b) A public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group may extend the date by which spaying or neutering is to be completed at its discretion for good cause shown. Any extension shall be in writing.
- (c) If a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state certifies that a dog is too sick or injured to be spayed or neutered, or that it would otherwise be detrimental to the health of the dog to be spayed or neutered, the adopter or purchaser shall pay the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group a deposit of not less than forty dollars (\$40), and not more than seventy-five dollars (\$75). The entity shall establish the amount of the deposit at the level it determines is necessary to encourage the spaying or neutering of dogs. The deposit shall be temporary, and shall be retained only until the dog is healthy enough to be spayed or neutered as certified by a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state. The dog shall be spayed or neutered within 14 business days of that certification. The adopter or purchaser shall obtain written proof of spaying or neutering from the veterinarian performing the operation. If the adopter or purchaser presents proof of spaying or neutering to the entity from which the dog was obtained within 30 business days, the adopter or purchaser shall receive a full refund of the deposit.
- (d) If an adopted dog dies within the spaying or neutering period provided for in the written agreement pursuant to Section 30503, subdivision (c) shall not apply to the dog. In that case, the recipient may receive a reimbursement of the sterilization deposit by submitting to the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group within the sterilization period a signed letter from a veterinarian licensed to practice medicine in this state stating that the animal has died. The letter shall include a description of the dog.

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SEC. 5. Section 30509 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:

- 30509. (a) (1) A person who commits any violation of subdivision (b) is subject to a civil penalty of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) on a first violation of subdivision (b), and a civil penalty of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) on any second or subsequent violation of subdivision (b).
- (2) An action for a penalty proposed under this section may be commenced by the administrator of the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group from which the recipient obtained the animal that is the subject of the violation in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (b) A person is subject to the civil penalties pursuant to subdivision (a) if that person does any of the following:
- (1) Falsifies any proof of spaying or neutering submitted for the purpose of compliance with this chapter.
- (2) Provides to a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group or a licensed veterinarian inaccurate information regarding ownership of any dog required to be submitted for spaying or neutering under this chapter.
- (3) Submits to a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group false information regarding sterilization fees or fee schedules.
- (4) Issues a check for insufficient funds for any spaying or neutering deposit required under this chapter.
- (c) All penalties collected under this section shall be retained by the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group imposing the penalties, to be used solely for purposes provided for under subdivision (c) of Section 30505.
- SEC. 6. Section 31751.3 of the Food and Agricultural Code is repealed.
- 31751.3. (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (b), no public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group shall sell or give away to a new owner any cat that has not been spayed or neutered.

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(2) For the purposes of this section, a "rescue group" is a for-profit or not-for-profit entity, or a collaboration of individuals with at least one of its purposes being the sale or placement of eats that have been removed from a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, or humane shelter or that have been previously owned by any person other than the original breeder of that eat.

- (b) (1) If a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state certifies that a cat is too sick or injured to be spayed or neutered, or that it would otherwise be detrimental to the health of the cat to be spayed or neutered, the adopter or purchaser shall pay the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group a deposit of not less than forty dollars (\$40), and not more than seventy-five dollars (\$75).
- (2) The entity shall establish the amount of the deposit at the level it determines is necessary to encourage the spaying or neutering of eats.
- (3) The deposit shall be temporary, and shall only be retained until the cat is healthy enough to be spayed or neutered, as certified by a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state.
- (4) The cat shall be spayed or neutered within 14 business days of that certification.
- (5) The adopter or purchaser shall obtain written proof of spaying or neutering from the veterinarian performing the operation.
- (6) If the adopter or purchaser presents proof of spaying or neutering to the entity from which the eat was obtained within 30 business days of obtaining the proof, the adopter or purchaser shall receive a full refund of the deposit.
- (c) Public animal control agencies or shelters, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelters, humane society shelters, and rescue groups may enter into cooperative agreements with each other and with veterinarians in lieu of requiring spaying and neutering deposits to carry out this section.
- (d) Any funds from unclaimed deposits made pursuant to this section, as it read on January 1, 1999, and any funds from deposits unclaimed after January 1, 2000, may be expended only for programs to spay or neuter eats and dogs, including

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agreements with a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals or a humane society or licensed veterinarian, to operate a program to spay or neuter eats and dogs.

- (e) This section only applies to a county that has a population exceeding 100,000 persons as of January 1, 2000, and to cities within that county.
- SEC. 7. Section 31751.3 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:
- 31751.3. (a) This section only applies to a county whose population exceeds 100,000 persons as of January 1, 2000, and to the cities in that county.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group shall sell or give away any cat that has not been spayed or neutered.
- (c) A public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group may not transfer to a new owner a cat that has not been spayed or neutered, except as provided in subdivision (d).
- (d) A public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group may transfer to a new owner a cat that has not been spayed or neutered only if the animal shelter does both of the following:
- (1) Requires a written agreement, executed by the recipient, acknowledging the cat is not spayed or neutered and the recipient agrees in writing to be responsible for ensuring the cat will be spayed or neutered within 30 business days after the agreement is signed.
- (2) Receives from the recipient a sterilization deposit of not less than forty dollars (\$40) and not more than seventy-five dollars (\$75), the terms of which are part of the written agreement executed by the recipient under this section.
- (e) Public animal control agencies or shelters, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelters, humane society shelters, and rescue groups may enter into cooperative agreements with each other and with veterinarians in lieu of requiring spaying and neutering deposits to carry out this section.

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SEC. 8. Section 31751.4 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:

- 31751.4. (a) A spaying or neutering deposit described in Section 31751.3 may be either of the following:
- (1) A portion of the adoption fee or other fees rendered in acquiring the cat, which will enable the adopter to take the cat for spaying or neutering to a veterinarian with whom the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group has an agreement that provides that the veterinarian will bill the shelter directly for the sterilization.
 - (2) A deposit that is both of the following:
- (A) Refundable to the recipient if proof of spaying or neutering of the cat is presented to the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group not more than 30 business days after the date the cat is spayed or neutered.
- (B) Forfeited to the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group if proof of spaying or neutering is not presented to the animal shelter within 30 business days.
- (b) A spaying or neutering deposit shall be in the amount determined by the shelter, but shall not be less than forty dollars (\$40) and shall not exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75).
- (c) All spaying or neutering deposits forfeited or unclaimed under this section shall be retained by the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group and shall be used by the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group only for the following purposes:
 - (1) A program to spay or neuter dogs and cats.
- (2) A public education program to reduce and prevent overpopulation of dogs and cats, and the related costs to local government.
- (3) A followup program to ensure that dogs and cats transferred by the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group are spayed or neutered in accordance

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with the agreement executed under subdivision (d) of Section 31751.3.

- (4) Any additional costs incurred by the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group in the administration of the requirements of this chapter.
- SEC. 9. Section 31751.8 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:
- 31751.8. (a) (1) If a recipient fails to comply with the spaying or neutering agreement executed under subdivision (d) of Section 31751.3, within 30 business days after the agreement is signed, the recipient shall forfeit the sterilization deposit and is subject to a fine pursuant to Section 31751.9.
- (2) An animal control officer, humane officer, police officer, peace officer, or any agency authorized to enforce the Penal Code may write citations with a civil penalty stated in an amount corresponding to the violation as provided in Section 31751.9. The fines shall be paid to the local municipality or public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane shelter, or rescue group. Any funds collected under this section shall be expended for the purpose of humane education, programs for low-cost spaying and neutering of dogs and cats, and any additional costs incurred by the animal shelter in the administration of the requirements of this chapter.
- (3) If the owner, at any time subsequent to 30 business days after the spaying or neutering agreement was signed, provides proof of spaying or neutering, the deposit shall be forfeited, but any fine levied but not yet paid, shall be waived.
- (b) A public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group may extend the date by which spaying or neutering is to be completed at its discretion for good cause shown. Any extension shall be in writing.
- (c) If a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state certifies that a cat is too sick or injured to be spayed or neutered, or that it would otherwise be detrimental to the health of the cat to be spayed or neutered, the adopter or purchaser shall pay the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group a deposit of not less than forty dollars (\$40), and

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not more than seventy-five dollars (\$75). The entity shall establish the amount of the deposit at the level it determines is necessary to encourage the spaying or neutering of cats. The deposit shall be temporary, and shall be retained only until the cat is healthy enough to be spayed or neutered as certified by a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state. The cat shall be spayed or neutered within 14 business days of that certification. The adopter or purchaser shall obtain written proof of spaying or neutering from the veterinarian performing the operation. If the adopter or purchaser presents proof of spaying or neutering to the entity from which the cat was obtained within 30 business days, the adopter or purchaser shall receive a full refund of the deposit.

- (d) If an adopted cat dies within the spaying or neutering period provided for in the written agreement pursuant to Section 31751.3, subdivision (c) shall not apply to the cat. In that case, the recipient may receive a reimbursement of the sterilization deposit by submitting to the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group within the sterilization period a signed letter from a veterinarian licensed to practice medicine in this state stating that the animal has died. The letter shall include a description of the cat.
- SEC. 10. Section 31751.9 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:
- 31751.9. (a) (1) A person who commits any violation of subdivision (b) is subject to a civil penalty of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) on a first violation of subdivision (b), and a civil penalty of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) on any second or subsequent violation of subdivision (b).
- (2) An action for a penalty proposed under this section may be commenced by the administrator of the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group from which the recipient obtained the animal that is the subject of the violation in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (b) A person is subject to the civil penalties pursuant to subdivision (a) if that person does any of the following:
- 39 (1) Falsifies any proof of spaying or neutering submitted for 40 the purpose of compliance with this chapter.

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(2) Provides to a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group or a licensed veterinarian inaccurate information regarding ownership of any cat required to be submitted for spaying or neutering under this chapter.

- (3) Submits to a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group false information regarding sterilization fees or fee schedules.
- (4) Issues a check for insufficient funds for any spaying or neutering deposit required under this chapter.
- (c) All penalties collected under this section shall be retained by the public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group imposing the penalties, to be used solely for purposes provided for under subdivision (c) of Section 31751.4.
- SEC. 11. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.